

# anzjat

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF ARTS THERAPY

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## Editorial: 'So much there is'

Associate Professor Sheridan Linnell *Western Sydney University, Sydney, ANZJAT Co-Editor*

Dr Catherine Camden-Pratt *Western Sydney University, Sydney, ANZJAT Co-Editor*

'So much there is' to consider in the eleventh issue of *ANZJAT*. The cover image by Matthias Nudl conveys simply and powerfully through the use of 'cut-outs' how the practice of art connects personal struggle with the wider traditions of the visual arts. Stepping inside the cover, readers are invited to sample the diversity of cultures, methodologies and practices of the arts therapies in our region.

The opening article by Vivian Lai about her clinical work with children, and the featured interview with Rainbow Ho, exemplify how *ANZJAT* (and *ANZATA*) is beginning to include the voices of practitioners from across the region and to better reflect our community's location in the Asia-Pacific.

Threads of connection, rather than clear themes, link the contributions to this edition. Sandra Dabrant and Chris McKeon describe their survey of patients in an art therapy pilot program in a day oncology unit, which found that 93% of participants felt that art therapy helped them cope with medical treatment. Jody Thompson, who also works within oncology, focuses on the experiences of art therapists working in cancer care, and in the process expands the possibilities for arts-based methodology. Annie Amour, Patricia Fenner and Katie Buckley also explore the lived experiences of arts therapists, in this instance across a range of workplaces in the Australian state of Victoria.

While Amour et al. discuss the supportive contribution of art therapy training to optimise practice and sustain art therapists in the workplace, Asha Zappa, a recent art therapy graduate, makes a robust contribution to the queering of art therapy theory, practice and training. She does this by bringing into question how clinical training may reinforce oppressive norms about sexuality and gender if taken-for-granted practices, in this case the family genogram, are not critiqued.

Creative contributions sit literally and symbolically at the heart of this issue of *ANZJAT*. We won't pre-empt your enjoyment of them here.

Moving into the realm of creative conversations, the interviews by Amanda Levey and Joanna Jaaniste invite readers to dance with the dynamic leader of the Hong Kong art therapy program, Rainbow Ho, and to sit at the feet of one of the most venerable of dramatherapy practitioners and researchers, Sue Jennings, as she tells us stories that engage and inform.

Our review section too, has expanded this year to include responses to art exhibitions as well as to books and to encompass insider perspectives and poetic appreciations, alongside more traditional critical reviews.

As we begin the second decade of *ANZJAT*, it seems timely to revisit the scope and purpose of the journal. While this is a conversation